

Attorney Docket No. 10559-197001
Application No. 09/751,322
Amendment dated March 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated December 22, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Initially, the indication that claims 18-22 are allowed is appreciatively noted. These claims are retained.

Claims 1-17 and 23-28 stands rejected based on the patent publication by Partos. The filing date of Partos is actually only two days earlier than the filing date of the present application. Accordingly, a Declaration of the Inventor under Rule 131 is submitted herewith, using evidence of prior invention. In fact, the evidence which is used is the draft of the patent application which was sent to the inventor. Since this establishes invention prior to the effective date of the Partos reference, the prima facie showing of unpatentability is no longer effective.

Hence, all claims should be allowable and a notice on the merits is respectfully requested.

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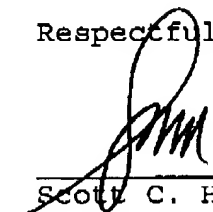
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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 03/23/2004



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